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April 29, 2005

Ms. Sandra M. Dickenson MS, BAN, RNC
Executive Director
Montana State Board of Nursing
301 South Park Avenue
Post Office Box 200513
Helena, Montana 59620-0513

Dear Ms. Dickenson:

On behalf of MSU-Billings College of Technology and with the support of the University administration, the faculty of the Practical Nursing program wishes to inform the Montana State Board of Nursing of their intent to assess the need in the greater Billings community for a certificate level LPN and an Associate of Science Degree in Nursing. This recommendation is in part based on the recommendations of the State Nursing Study Committee that was appointed by the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education as a result of the statewide Legislative Degree Audit that was completed last summer. The committee will be presenting their recommendations for the creation of a two-year Nursing Pathway to the Board of Regents meeting in May 2005.

As indicated in the Montana State Statutes and Rules Governing the Practice of Nursing 8.32.801 (2), this statement of intent is to initiate the process of application for the initial approval of a nursing program. We will be performing a needs assessment of the greater Billings community, its nurses, and the potential and actual need as it exists, for practical nurses, as well as Associate Degree Registered Nurses. Also, during the upcoming year we will complete a feasibility study addressing the items listed in 8.42.810 (3) of Montana State Statutes and Rules Governing the Practice of Nursing.

The practical nursing faculty, administration, and I look forward to working with you on this important endeavor to address the national, state, and local nursing needs and shortage.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Janie C. Park in cursive.

Janie C. Park, Ph.D.
Provost and Academic Vice Chancellor
Montana State University-Billings
(406) 657-2367
jpark@msubillings.edu

Handwritten signature of John E. Cech in cursive.

John E. Cech
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JCP/mh